

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AF-08 CU-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 EB-08
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INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2059

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SP, EG, YO, XT, XI
SUBJECT: SPANISH PAPER REPORTS EGYPT WILL ASK SPAIN TO BACK
NORTH AFRICAN OBSERVER PRESENCE AT BELGRADE CSCE CONFERENCE

1. THE SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN CAIRO OF MADRID'S CATHOLIC-LIBERAL DAILY YA HAS REPORTED THAT DURING THE UPCOMING VISIT OF KING JUAN CARLOS TO EGYPT, THE EGYPTIAN GOVT WILL ASK THAT SPAIN REQUEST THE CSCE TO ALLOW "THE PARTICIPATION OF THE COUNTRIES OF NORTH AFRICA AS OBSERVERS" IN BELGRADE. "THE ARABS WANT TO GO TO THAT CONFERENCE", THE ACCOUNT CONTINUES, "AND THEY INTEND THAT SPAIN AND YUGOSLAVIA--ALSO A TRADITIONAL FRIEND OF EGYPT SINCE NASSER'S TIME--SHOULD
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PAVE THE WAY". THE STORY ADDED THAT THE EGYPTIANS NEITHER EXPECTED NOR WANTED THE USSR OR ITS ALLIES TO BE THE ONES TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN THAT SENSE.

2. WITHOUT SOURCING EXCEPT AS INDICATED, THE SPANISH JOURNALIST ALSO WROTE THAT "THE SECURITY OF THE MEDITERRANENA AREA DEPENDS NOT ONLY ON THE NORTH SHORE--FROM SPAIN TO

TURKEY--BUT ALSO ON THE SOUTH SHORE, FROM MOROCCO TO EGYPT. IN CAIRO THEY STRESS TO ME THE VALUE OF SPAIN AS A 'BRIDGE' BETWEEN THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND EUROPE. HINTED AT ARE PLANS FOR FUTURE COOPERATION FOR THESE TWO COMMUNITIES, POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY. THE COASTAL COUNTRIES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN HAVE TO COORDINATE THEIR INTERESTS AND REACH AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO DEFEND THEMSELVES VIS-A-VIS THE GREAT POWERS, WHO WOULD HAVE TO WITHDRAW THEIR NAVAL POWER FROM THE MARE NOSTRUM. IN THIS OPERATION IN 'DEFENSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN', CAIRO, BELGRADE, AND MADRID CAN PLAY AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN THE FUTURE".

3. IN A TANJUG INTERVIEW GIVEN BY SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA THE SAME DAY (MARCH 17) AND REPORTED BY FBIS (LD 171510Y), IT WAS ASSERTED (WITHOUT DIRECT QUOTES) THAT OREJA "STATED THAT MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES WHICH DID NOT SIGN THE HELSINKI FINAL DOCUMENT SHOULD ALSO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE BELGRADE MEETING" AND THAT HE "SET OUT HIS CONVICTION THAT THERE IS AN ESSENTIAL IDENTITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN MADRID AND BELGRADE ON MEDITERRANEAN PROBLEMS".

4. SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA WHO CLOSELY FOLLOWS CSCE AFFAIRS (JAVIER RUPEREZ) TELL US THAT THERE HAS AS YET BEEN NO EGYPTIAN REQUEST OF THIS SORT AND THAT THE FIRST THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HEARD OF IT WAS VIA THE PRESS REPORT DESCRIBED ABOVE. HE ADDED THAT THE GOS HAS NOT YET FORMULATED A POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF NORTH AFRICAN PARTICIPATION AT BELGRADE BUT THAT HE EXPECTS SPAIN MAY SEEK TO PERSUADE THE NORTH AFRICANS TO ACCEPT SOMETHING LESS THAN OBSERVER STATUS, PROBABLY ALONG THE LINES OF

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THE SYSTEM WORKED OUT FOR CSCE ITSELF.EATON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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